

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Marian Bell Fairchild, March 1, 1907

1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. March 1, 1907. Dear Daidums:—

The weather has had me in its grippe for a long time past, and I have not had the spirit to acknowledge the nice letters received from you and David, and not spirit or opportunity even to look at the baby. So far as I have been concerned Alexander IV has disappeared from observation. I have seen nothing of him for an age, and I have heard nothing from him even with the best ear the grippe has left me, so to-day I have stolen upstairs to have a look at him, and assure myself that your mother's rosey reports are reliable. He looks splendid and from the way he has succeeded in evading the law about sucking his thumb, his mental abilities have evidently increased. Not content with putting his hands in mittens, they have actually strapped his little arms against his sides to prevent his getting his thumbs in his mouth, but he has succeeded in eluding vigilance, and merrily sucks his big toe instead. Wonderful intelligence, wonderful growth of brain. I expect he will have to be strapped up tightly like an Indian papoose to prevent him from indulging in his favorite pastime. He weighs the enormous amount of 16 lbs. 2 oz. Just think of it! A very Hercules of a baby. Although some of my lambs could beat him two or three times over in the same time. The nurse reports the first signs 2 of the appearance of two teeth, so I expect that it will not be long before my deaf ear recognizes his presence in the house. Poor little chap — squally times ahead.

I don't suppose you care to hear of anything else excepting your baby, and therefore will close with much love to you and David, and with the hopes that you will both return sunbrowned and well to

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Your loving father, Alexander III